

# TELEGRAM

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INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
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FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

GDS

SHUM, AR

CALLS ON JUNTA MEMBER AGOSTI AND DEFENSE MINISTER KLIX

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

BUENOS AIRES

9294

1. Human rights, related GOA military problems with the US and Argentina's image abroad were ~~EM~~ stressed during the Ambassador's discussions with these high-ranking GOA officials.

2. Ambassador told Air Force Commander Gen. Orlando  
IN CALL ON NOV 29

R. Agosti/that the problem of human rights continues to harm relations between the two countries. He suggested the need for due process of law as an integral part in the struggle against subversion. The Ambassador noted that the recent detentions of reporters did a great deal of damage to Argentina's image overseas.

3. Agosti expressed concern that the US Congress did not understand the difficult situation and

DRAFTED BY:

ADCM: JHiggins/pm

DRAFTING DATE

12/7/77

TEL. EXT.

201

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

Amb Castro

CLEARANCES:

DAO:Col. Goetze  
DATT:Col. Coughlin  
POL:WHallman

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complained that as a result of recent legislation the Argentine Air Force would be forced to buy non-US equipment. Agosti said he would rather buy from the US and that he hoped new legislation would permit Argentina to purchase the equipment it needs. Ambassador replied suggesting that Argentina could change its image by clarifying the status of people who had disappeared and releasing persons with no direct connection with subversion. The Ambassador urged the GOA to take steps toward a return to the full rule of law, which would significantly improve its image abroad.

4. Brigadier X Klix welcomed the Ambassador  
ON NOV 30 CALL  
warmly and reviewed the close ties the Argentine military has had over the years which resulted in inventories in all services that are largely US. He said over the years hundreds of Argentine officers who trained in the US had returned with an appreciation of US democracy and now hold important positions. Klix said Argentina is not interested in aid or FMS credits since the GOA can purchase both equipment and training.

5. But he said it is essential that the GOA not be denied the opportunity to purchase US equipment,

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essential spare parts and training.

6. The Ambassador said that despite the problems between the two countries, he was encouraged by the fact that the GOA is ~~XXXXX~~ interested in maintaining a dialogue to seek solutions. The Ambassador said, however- that in this post-Vietnam period the concerns of American citizens are being expressed forcefully through the Congress. One of these concerns is human rights.

7. The Ambassador said that while he knew that this subject in Argentina is a sensitive one for a foreigner to address, he ~~XXXXX~~ would make some suggestions which might help improve Argentina's human rights image abroad. Referring to the QUOTE right of option END QUOTE, Ambassador suggested that perhaps a relatively large number of detainees ~~XXXXX~~ could be permitted to leave without creating a serious threat to the GOA. It has been observed abroad that few, if any, persons have actually been able to exercise the right of option announced several months ago. The Ambassador suggested that Argentina could give ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ priority to the case of Jacobo Timerman and either convict him in a court of

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law or release him if the ~~is~~ available evidence is not sufficient. The Ambassador added that the release of ex-President Campora <sup>is of interest to</sup> could be viewed as a positive step.

8. Klix agreed that such actions would indeed improve Argentina's image, but that they were not easy for the GOA to take given the brutality engendered by terrorism in Argentina over the last three years. Then Klix told the Ambassador that he thought there could be QUOTE a major development END QUOTE on the human rights front before Christmas. The implication was that some detainees would be released.

CASTRO



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